

# Seminar

## Transforming children's rights? Dilemmas, challenges and implementation

Centre for Research in Education Inclusion and Diversity  
Childhood & Youth Studies Research Group  
School of Education, University of Edinburgh

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 • Time: 9.30am-3.30pm  
Conference Room (Level 0), The Edinburgh Centre of Carbon Innovation (ECCI),  
High School Yards, Edinburgh EH1 1LZ

Please visit the main webpage of this event for more information  
<https://www.ed.ac.uk/education/rke/centres-groups/creid/news-events/latest-events/seminar-transforming-children-rights>

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) will shortly have its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Emerging from the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, it has since become the most ratified international human rights treaty ever. The UK ratified the CRC in 1991 and is thus obligated to ensure the implementation of children's rights in practice.

Operationalising the UNCRC raises practical, conceptual and ethical issues. For example, questions arise concerning children and young people's capacity and competence to make autonomous decisions, particularly in the case of younger children or those with significant disabilities. There are debates about children's involvement in dispute resolution and the relationship between the rights of children and young people on the one hand and those of parents on the other.




Across the four nations of the UK, there have been different rates of progress in terms of incorporating aspects of the UNCRC into domestic law. Holding this seminar in Scotland is timely, with the Scottish Government's promise to incorporate the principles of CRC into domestic law, a three year awareness raising programme for children's rights, and an emerging children and young people's participation framework. It is thus timely to consider where we are now – and where we want to be – learning from across the UK and beyond.

Questions addressed by contributors include the following:

- What rights have been accorded to children and young people in different social policy arenas and UK jurisdictions?
- What are and should be the roles of the state, parents and children?
- What challenges arise when translating policy rhetoric on children's rights into meaningful action on the ground?
- For the next 30 years, what dilemmas may arise in relation to children's rights? What are the potential solutions?

# Seminar Schedule

<b>Chair: Professor Kay Tisdall</b>	
9.30-10.00	Arrival, Registration (With refreshments)
10.00-10.20	Introduction to the Day
<b>Session One: Looking ahead in family law</b>	
10.20-10.40	<a href="#">Helen Stalford, University of Liverpool</a> (Abstract) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Strengthening children's rights in family law: Making the UNCRC work harder</a></li> </ul>
10.40-11.00	<a href="#">Kay Tisdall, University of Edinburgh</a> and <a href="#">Fiona Morrison, University of Stirling</a> (Abstract) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Undue influence? Children's views in contested child contact cases</a></li> </ul>
11.00-11.20	Discussion
<b>Session Two: Looking ahead in additional support needs/ special educational needs</b>	
11.20-11.40	<a href="#">Sheila Riddell, University of Edinburgh</a> and <a href="#">Neville Harris &amp; Gail Davidge, University of Manchester</a> (Abstract) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Autonomy, Rights and Children with Special Needs: A New Paradigm? -- Findings from an ESRC-funded study</a></li> </ul>
11.40-12.00	<a href="#">Margaret Doyle, University of Essex</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">A Place at the Table: Young people's participation in resolving disputes about special educational needs and disabilities in England.</a></li> </ul>
12.00-12.20	<a href="#">Mairi-Ann Cullen, University of Warwick</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Young people's right to appeal to the English First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability): appetite, barriers, challenges, dilemmas, examples</a> (Abstract)</li> </ul>
12.20-12.40	Discussion
12.40-13.30	Lunch
<b>Chair: Professor Sheila Riddell</b>	
13.30-14.10	Viewpoints from Scotland <a href="#">Suki Wan MSYP, Chair of the Scottish Youth Parliament</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Transforming Children's Rights? Dilemmas, Challenges and Implementation</a></li> </ul> <a href="#">Juliet Harris, Director of Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Transforming children's rights in Scotland? Dilemmas, challenges and implementation</a></li> </ul>
<b>Session Three: Looking ahead in health and social welfare</b>	
14.10-14.30	<a href="#">Annie Sorbie, University of Edinburgh</a> (Abstract) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Challenges and dilemmas in Medical Law: Is the best interests test for the care of children fit for purpose?</a></li> </ul>
14.30-14.50	<a href="#">Charlotte Pearson &amp; Nicholas Watson, University of Glasgow</a> (Abstract) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Transition to where and to what? Mapping the experiences of the transition to adulthood for young disabled people in Scotland.</a></li> </ul>
14.50-15.10	Discussion
15.10-15.30	Final discussion and close

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